

ANIMAL HEALTH

State Veterinarian's Heritage for Washington State (By Decades)

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1853 - 1889 Washington territorial days -- there is no regulated control of veterinary medicine.

1860-1870

1869 A Territorial law entitled "An act to prevent the introduction of Texas Cattle, or cattle infected with Texas fever in the Territory of Washington," was passed over the Governor's veto.

1870-1880

1870's First Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the United States occurred in 1870 alarming Washington stockmen.

1880-1890

1888 - 1889 Winter weather wipes out 30 to 40 percent of Cattle in the Western States.
1889 On November 11, 1889 Washington is granted statehood.

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1890-1900

1893 Washington State Fair organized by legislature.
1895 First Dairy law enacted and first State Dairy Commissioner appointed.
1895 Regulatory veterinary medicine in the state of Washington began with the enactment of House Bill No. 491 (Chapter 167) Session laws, 1895, Defining the Duties of State Veterinary Surgeon. The law became effective March 22, 1895. It created the office of State Veterinarian which was vested in the professor of veterinary science of the Agriculture College and Experiment Station.

The statute provided that the State Veterinarian was to be chosen in the same manner as other members of the faculty and station staff and serve without compensation in addition to the salary paid by the College and Experiment Station. He was required to be a graduate of a regular and established veterinary college and to be skilled in veterinary science.

In addition to his duties as professor of veterinary science, he was to be a member of the State Board of Health.

He was to have general supervision of all contagious and infectious diseases of domestic animals within or in transit through the state and was empowered to establish quarantines against diseased animals or animals exposed to diseased animals. He was given the authority to make rules and regulations and to call upon peace officers for assistance in enforcing them.

He was authorized to cooperate with the United States government in carrying out the objects of the act. The federal agency with which he would cooperate was the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry (now Veterinary Services). The bureau was created May 29, 1884, in response to the petitions of frustrated farmers whose livestock was so plagued with disease that overseas markets were refusing to buy from this country.

1895 - 1913 Dr. Sofus B. Nelson, DVM. The first State Veterinarian was Dr. Sofus B. Nelson who joined the faculty of the Agriculture College and Experiment Station at Pullman, Washington on September 3, 1895. Dr. Nelson was a native of Denmark. He graduated from Iowa Agriculture College in December, 1890. He was described as "well trained, energetic, and enthusiastic... A man of vision and ambition..."

As defined by law, Dr. Nelson not only served as State Veterinarian, but also as the professor of veterinary science at the Agriculture College and Experiment Station and as a member of the State Board of Health. He had established a veterinary practice in Spokane in 1890 which he continued to operate after his appointment as State Veterinarian

Dr. Nelson served as State Veterinarian until 1913 when the duties of State Veterinarian were transferred by the legislature to the Director of the Division of Dairy and Livestock under the newly formed State Department of Agriculture. Dr. Nelson served as Professor and Dean of the Veterinary College until 1919 when he resigned and was appointed Director of the Agriculture Extension Service.

Dr. Nelson served more years as State Veterinarian than any subsequent holder of the office.

1895 The State Veterinarian had to wait until funds for expenses could be furnished by the Legislature before diseases could be investigated.

1895 The first rules requiring testing and examination of livestock by a veterinarian prior to importation into the state were promulgated soon after passage of the 1895 law entitled "Defining the Duties of State Veterinary Surgeon". The rules required that "...sheep brought into the state must be dipped within thirty days prior thereto, or, must be dipped within thirty day after having been brought into this state". An addendum on the bottom of the signed order gave recommendations for a sheep dip as follows:

"Strong tobacco - 15 pounds

Concentrated lye - 3 pounds

Water - 100 gallons"

1897 Canadian authorities quarantined all the horses employed in freighting between Marcus, Grand Forks, Republic, Greenwood, etc. This international quarantine was enforced, impeding traffic, causing severe losses to the American freighters and considerable inconvenience to the public for over three weeks. Had the State Veterinarian been in possession of available funds, the quarantine could have been raised in a few days.

1898 An act to provide against adulteration of food is passed. The Dairy Commissioner becomes the Dairy & Food Commissioner.

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1900-1910

1899 - 1900 In his third biennial report, (1899-1900), Dr. Nelson expressed his concern that he was spread too thin to adequately cover his assigned duties. He asked for an assistant to take over some of the work at a salary of about nine hundred dollars per annum. Another problem identified in this biennial report and in correspondence between Dr. Nelson and the Governor was that funds appropriated by the legislature ran out approximately eight months prior to the end of the biennium. When the funds were exhausted, much of the work was simply discontinued or carried on at the expense of the owner of the sick animals. Correspondence between livestock owners and the Governor's office and between the Governor's office and the State Veterinarian attest to the dissatisfaction of many of the livestock owners due to this method of operation.

1903 One hundred and thirty-two hogs lost to Hog Cholera.

1904 Twenty-five thousand doses of Blackleg vaccine furnished to 424 stockman.

1907 The Veterinary Practice Act, passed by Legislature of 1907, a provision was made for a Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

1909 Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA) is formed. Dr. J Hilton is the first President.

1909 Glanders in horses followed the import of large number of horses for use in railroad building.

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1910-1920

1911 1,698 horse examined for Glanders with 255 reactors ordered destroyed or quarantined. There is considerable inclination on the part of some owners to hide the disease when it breaks out, thereby spreading the disease.

1911 Public Health begins to address Tuberculosis. From the historical records of Woodstock, Illinois it is interesting to note that Illinois passes a state law making the Tuberculin Test Ordinance illegal. Judge Edward D. Shurtleff of Marengo led the campaign against the ordinance - first developed by the Chicago City Council in 1908 - from his lofty perch as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives at Springfield, Illinois.

1913 In his final report, which covered the period September 1, 1912 to June 12, 1913, Dr. Nelson summed up the results and costs of his eighteen years of service as State Veterinarian: "In turning over the office of State Veterinarian after nearly eighteen years of

service, I beg to say in resume' that the office has inspected 24,483 horses, 43,449 cattle, 68,194 sheep, and 13,056 swine, a total of 149,182. Of the cattle, 26,292 were given the tuberculin test and 6,136 horses were given the mallein test, which enormous figures show that the State Veterinarian's work in protecting the livestock of the state of Washington has been a very important one." "All of this work during the past eighteen years has been done at an expense of less than \$45,000 or an average of \$2,500 a year. I dare say without contradiction that this state ranks among those states in the Union where more work and the best work for the least money has been done by the State Veterinarian's Office".

1913 The Department of Agriculture and Division of Dairy and Livestock was created by Chapter 60 of the session laws of 1913, which passed Senate Bill 247, entitled: "An Act Creating A Department of Agriculture, Providing for the Organization and Administration Thereof, Defining the Powers and Duties of Its officers and Employees in Relation to Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Dairying, State Fairs, Foods, Drinks, Drugs, Oils, and Other Kindred Subjects, Providing Penalties for the Violation Thereof and Repealing Certain Acts and Parts of Acts."

The Department was created by bringing together:

State Veterinarian	\$15,000
Dairy and Food Commissioner	46,000
Commissioner of Horticulture	75,000
State Oil Inspector	18,800
Bakery Inspector (from State Commission of Labor)	
State Fair Commission and SW Washington Fair Commission -	40,000
Licensing and regulation of Jacks and Stallions (from Washington State University)	
Commercial feed concentrates and commercial fertilizers (from Washington Agriculture Experiment Station)	
Total	\$195,400

1913 - 1917 Harry T. Graves, DVS. Dr. Harry T, Graves, a 1910 Washington State College graduate veterinarian, was named Acting Commissioner of Agriculture and was named Acting Commissioner of Agriculture and was also placed in charge of the Dairy and Livestock Division. Employees of that division included four dairy inspector and one veterinary inspector. Dr Graves served as State Veterinarian from May 1, 1913 to March 21, 1917.

1913 The Stallion and Jack registration law is of prime importance to the livestock industry in that it protects the public from dishonest stallion owners.

1913-1914 Rabies is rampant in Washington State in King and Pierce counties and is a menace to human life. Fortunately there were no human deaths reported undoubtedly due to the protection afforded by the Pasteur treatment. The biennium report for that period said "Theoretically Rabies is one of the most easily eradicated diseases, all that is required is the

muzzling of dogs for a sufficient time. The Department, immediately after the out-break in King and Pierce counties, undertook to enforce a muzzling regulation, but in the absence of a penalty section in our present livestock law, it was impossible to make the regulation properly effective. It is therefore urged that the legislature amend the present statute so as to give the Department sufficient power to undertake the eradication of Rabies. A new livestock sanitary law, containing special provision in reference to Rabies, will be offered"

1914 Animal diseases investigated and acted upon during the first biennium of Dr. Graves administration according to his first biennial report, included Tuberculosis, Glanders, Hog Cholera, Rabies, Keratitis, Phtheriosis (lice), Contagious Mastitis, Actinomycosis, Pyemia, Enteritis, Ringworm, and Forage Poisoning. Of these diseases, Tuberculosis, Glanders, Hog Cholera, and Rabies have presented a difficult obstacle to success in the livestock business for many years. Each of these diseases except Cholera are transmissible to humans and thus have also constituted a public health hazard.

1914 Two rail cars of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) exposed cattle enroute from Wisconsin to Roy, Washington arrive in Spokane, Washington on Wednesday, November 13, 1914. Quick action by veterinarians, state agriculture officials and the owner averts a potential Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak before it can happen. The shipment consisting of thirty-two pure bred Holsteins and seventy grade Holsteins were appraised at fifty dollars for pure breeds and thirty-five dollars for grade animal, making a total of four thousand and fifty dollars. By Saturday, November 21, 1914, all the cattle had been killed and cremated, cars thoroughly disinfected and all pens, litter, etc. safely disposed of.

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease during the fall of 1914 presented a serious menace to the livestock industry of the United States. First appearing in Michigan, the malady spread to twenty-two states and the District of Columbia. This disease is of such a highly contagious character and the infection so easily spread, that its immediate control and eradication was of great economic significance.

There have been five outbreaks of FMD previous to the one in 1914. The first three occurred in 1870, 1880, and 1884, and were trifling when compared with those of 1902 and 1908. The disease reoccurred once more in Texas and California in 1924-25 after the 1914 outbreak was brought under control in 1916. An outbreak of FMD also occurred in California swine in 1929.

In the Historical records of Woodstock, Illinois, it is stated that after a two-year battle with hoof (sic) and mouth disease, McHenry County is declared disease-free in April. However, 36,758 animals on 500 Illinois farms were slaughtered as part of eradication procedures. The backlash from such "indiscriminate" killing of entire herds - and the resulting unfair pricing by the big milk processors - prompts the Producer's Association to urge their members to strike in the Spring. Borden at Woodstock would close, but A.J. Olson's Congress Northern Dairy is not affected after Olson agreed to meet the Association's price demands.

1915 The first Tri-State or Pacific Northwest Meeting of veterinarians is held in Bellingham. As a region, the meetings continue until 1955 when Washington withdraws to concentrate on in-state issues.

1916 The School of Veterinary Science at Pullman becomes the College of Veterinary Science, complete with deanship.

1916 Sheep Scabies (mange) made its appearance in the feed yards of the Union Meat

Company at Lyle, Washington, Klickitat county.

1917 Three persons in the state die of Hydrophobia (rabies). Sixty persons given Pasteur treatment by State Health Commissioner after being bitten by rabid dogs, cats or coyotes.

1917 The first continuing education program for veterinarians is held in Pullman. It is sponsored by the college and assisted by the fledgling state association and northwest veterinarians.

1917 State-Federal Tuberculosis eradication began - county by county - 5% of cattle in U.S. infected.

1917 - 1920 R. J. Donahue, DVM. Dr. Donahue (WSU '12) was appointed as State Veterinarian by the Commissioner (Director) of the Department of Agriculture continuing to be the case after the office of the State Veterinarian was transferred to the State Department of Agriculture. Dr. Donahue was President of the WSVMA in 1924.

1918 Sheep Scab discovered in Okanogan county in October. Dipping orders issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

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1920-1930

1920 The College of Veterinary Science's first African-American student, Winfred A. Jordan graduates. Dr. Jordan is a transfer student from the soon-to-close San Francisco Veterinary College.

1920 John's Disease reported from several districts in western Washington. It is usually found in low, wet pastures or those that frequently become flooded.

1920 - 1924 L. C. Pelton, DVM. Dr. Pelton appointed State Veterinarian. Dr. Pelton served from April 1, 1920 to October 24, 1924. Dr. Pelton was President of the WSVMA in 1915 and 1916.

1922 The prevalence of contagious abortion (Brucellosis) in cattle herds, has, during the past few years, been of great significance.

1924 - 1934 Robert Prior, DVM. Dr. Prior appointed State Veterinarian. Dr. Prior served from October 24, 1924 to an unknown date in 1934. Dr. Prior was President of the WSVMA in 1915.

1925 The College of Veterinary Science becomes the College of Veterinary Medicine at Pullman Washington.

1925 Upon the application of the owners of 51% of the cattle in any county for a tuberculin test, it becomes compulsory for all the cattle owned in said county to submit to tests and examination.

1926 The first roads are pushed into Ilwaco in Pacific County Washington. Prior to this, all transportation to the area was by boat, hindering veterinary care among the coastal farms.

1927 A legislative act for the "Prevention and eradication of diseases of domestic animals.", the first comprehensive law on this subject outlining the powers and duties of the Director of Agriculture and the Division of Dairy and Livestock.

1928 Skagit County becomes the first county in Washington to begin a bovine tuberculosis eradication program.

1928 Four outbreaks of Anthrax diagnosed in widely separated districts in the state of Washington.

1928 Bacillary White Diarrhea (Pullorum Disease) causes great economic loss to poultry breeders.

1929 Washington State appropriates extra funds to begin tuberculosis testing King County's 40,000 head of cattle. At the first testing, over 8,000 head are identified as positive reactors. Herds of up to 150 head are often found to be 100 percent reactive. It will take until 1988 before Washington is declared Tuberculosis free.

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1930-1940

1932 In addition to the handling of contagious diseases of livestock the division of Dairy and Livestock took over the duties of veterinary service for state institution animals. This made possible substantial savings to the state. (and undoubtedly raised the ire of private practitioners)

1933 Washington State College graduates its first female veterinarian, Dr. Catherine Elizabeth Roberts. She goes on to be the first licensed female veterinarian in California and is among only twelve in the nation at the time.

1934 - 1936 (Acting) Marvin R. Hales, DVM. The exact term for Dr. Hales (WSU '26) as acting State Veterinarian is in doubt as the next State Veterinarian appears to have been appointed in 1938. It is possible that the office was vacant for a period of time. The economic depression took its toll. Type-written Biennial Reports only exist. Some are missing and contain scanty information. Dr. Rolla Sexauer (State Veterinarian from 1985 to 1988) recalls that Dr. Hales was on the state field force stationed at Longview when Dr. Sexauer began employment with the state in 1959. Dr. Hales retired in the mid 1960s.

1934 Equine Glanders eradicated.

1934 State-Federal Brucellosis eradication is begun nationwide as part of a cattle reduction program from the severe drought conditions of the 1930s. It will not be until 1988 that the state is declared Brucellosis free.

1935 Drought in mid-western states causes importation of many swine and swine diseases.

1935 Brand registration transferred from county to state.

1935 National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) for chickens was formed with Washington poultry producers as charter members.

1936 The State Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Health initiate the first ever meat inspection regulations in Washington State. C. L. Norris is appointed to head up the service by Marvin Hales, supervisor of Dairy and Livestock Division.

1937 Washington's bovine Brucellosis program is changed from a "cattle reduction" program to a "disease eradication" program. This signals a major shift in herd health management thinking.

1937 Brand inspection law passed.

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1940-1950

1938-1944 Mansel O. Barnes, DVM. Dr. Barnes (WSU '27) served two separated terms as State Veterinarian (1938-1944 and 1948-1951). In between terms as State Veterinarian, Dr. Barnes was employed by the Federal Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) in Olympia and was assigned during 1947 to the Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth disease in the Republic of Mexico. The 80th Congress had appropriated \$9,000,000 for the BAI's use in assisting in the campaign to control the disease in Mexico rather than to await the outbreak in the United States. He died at Kennewick, Washington, December 28, 1952.

1941 Vaccination of calves with Brucellosis strain 19 vaccine started.

1941 Only Virginia leads Washington among all 50 states in Brucellosis eradication at this time. It has been a monumental veterinary effort recognized nationwide and especially in Washington due to its rugged geography and harsh winter weather

1943 Washington State Poultry and Turkey Disease Control Committee formed and Turkeys added to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

1944-1946 Herman A. Trippeer, MVD. Dr. Trippeer had an office in the old Capital Building in downtown Olympia in a very formal setting. He also was on the State Board of Veterinary Examiners Committee. Dr. Trippeer was President of the WSVMA in 1923.

1946 The Poultry Laboratory at Prosser furnished with equipment and a veterinarian, as well as one at the Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup. This was the first such service which the poultry industry has received.

1947 Layton Bailey, DVM. Little is recorded about Dr. Bailey's service as State Veterinarian.

1948 H. F. Beardmore, DVM. Again little is recorded about Dr. Beardmore's term as State Veterinarian.

1948 - 1951 M. O. Barnes, DVM. Dr. Barnes returned from Mexico and served a second term as State Veterinarian. Dr. Barnes was President of the WSVMA in 1942.

1948 The first graduate degree ever awarded by the College of Veterinary Medicine is earned by one of its alumni. Dr. John Gorham (WSU '46) earns his Masters of Science Degree in pathology under Dr. D. R. Cordy. Later the pair go on to discover a rickettsia that is the cause of salmon disease in dogs and foxes.

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1950-1960

1950 The South Puget Sound Veterinary Medical Association is started. Puyallup's Dr. William F. Harris (WSU '43) is elected the first president.

1952 - 1957 A. E. Crouse, DVM. Dr. Crouse served as State Veterinarian from July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1956.

1954 All-out state-federal cooperative eradication effort to eradicate Brucellosis begins.

1955 - 1957 Washington State animal health authorities pioneer blood screening on slaughter house samples. The method attracts nationwide attention as a method to detect infected herds that may have been missed in area testing. Slaughter house testing is now the mainstay of the United State's surveillance for Brucellosis.

1956 On June 1, 1956 Modified Certified Brucellosis free status for the state of Washington achieved. The status meant that the individual animal infection rate was <1% and the herd infection rate was <5%.

1956 Western Equine Encephalitis (Sleeping Sickness) reported in Grant County in late July. During next six weeks, 69 cases were diagnosed and reported in 11 eastern Washington counties. WEE can also affect human so Public Health authorities track equine cases as sentinels that the virus is active in bird populations.

1957 (Acting) Barney Benedictson, DVM. Dr. Benedictson (WSU '46) served as Assistant State Veterinarian under Dr. Crouse and later under Drs. Balch and Hostetler.

1957 Roscoe Balch, DVM. Dr. Balch (WSU '47) resigned after a few days as State Veterinarian. He later was employed for many years by Wilcox Farms as their resident poultry pathologist. He previously had been employed by H&N International, a poultry genetics firm and by the Poultry Laboratory in Puyallup, Washington. Dr. Balch is presently retired and lives in Roy, Washington adjacent to Wilcox Farms and acts as a volunteer advisor in poultry matters to the present State Veterinarian.

1958 - 1959 Roy I. Hostetler, DVM. Dr. Hostetler (WSU '39) was in veterinary practice at Goldendale, Washington when he was appointed State Veterinarian. He became the WSU Extension Veterinarian after leaving the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hostetler was President of the WSVMA in 1955.

1958 New poultry diagnostic and research laboratory at the Western Washington Experiment Station in Puyallup opens.

1958 - 1959 Chapter 16.49 RCW, "State Meat Inspection Act", Chapter 16.50, "Humane Slaughter Act" and Chapter 16.65 RCW, "Public Livestock Market Act" passed by legislature.

1959 Chapter 16.49 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) "State Meat Inspection Act", Chapter 16.50 "Humane Slaughter Act" and Chapter 16.65 "Public Livestock Markets" implemented through the writing of regulations.

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1960-1970

1959 - 1966 Delbert A. McGill, DVM. Dr. McGill graduated from Washington State College (now Washington State University) College of Veterinary Medicine in 1941. Dr. McGill is the only State Veterinarian to die in office.

1960 The Humane Slaughter Act passed in 1959 goes into effect.

1962 - 1964 Washington is first state to use Market Cattle Testing program to reaccredit counties for Tuberculosis.

1966 (Acting) LaMar Gaw, DVM. Dr. Gaw was President of the WSVMA in 1949.

1967 - 1969 Donald Spangler, DVM. Dr. Spangler served as State Veterinarian from April 1, 1967 to June 30, 1969. He previously had been President of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

1967 Washington achieved Certified Brucellosis free status on January 1, 1967. The status meant an individual animal infection of <0.2% and a herd infection rate of <1%. Allowing some infection while being declared free of the disease became an undoing of the program in the late 1970's

1967 Washington declared Hog Cholera free.

1969 New State-Federal cooperative agreement merges the Federal and State animal health units for operating purposes. Federal employees in charge of the federal office would also serve as State Veterinarian.

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1970-1980

1969 - 1972 (State-Federal) John K Atwell. After leaving Washington State, Dr. Atwell had a long career with USDA, APHIS and is presently the State Veterinarian for North Carolina.

1972 (Acting) (State-Federal) Billy Johnson, DVM. After leaving Washington State, Dr. Johnson had a long career with USDA, APHIS and is presently retired. He has been associated recently with the USAHA's Mexican-US cooperative efforts to control Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in Mexican States particularly the Northern tier.

1972 - 1974 (State-Federal) Richard Evinger, DVM. After leaving Washington State Dr. Evinger had a long career with USDA, APHIS, VS and returned to Washington as the Area Veterinarian in Charge of the Federal Office in 1988?. He retired from federal service in 19?? and presently lives in the Olympia, Washington area.

1972 Washington Meat Inspection and Poultry Inspection turned completely into a Federal Program under Federal Wholesome Meat Act.

1974 - 1977 Otto Montgomery, DVM. Dr. Montgomery was the first State Veterinarian appointed by the Director of Agriculture after the grand experiment of the dual position of the State-Federal cooperative agreement.

1975 Washington Validated free of Swine Brucellosis.

1977 Bovine Brucellosis reappears in Whatcom County. Emergency rules adopted requiring change of ownership testing and import testing.

1977 - 1978 Peter Bidlake, DVM Dr. Bidlake graduated from WSU in 1952.

1978 Mass Brucellosis testing by a Federal-State task force begins in Washington's Northwest counties. A number of lawsuits are initiated from Dairymen in the area. It took many years for them all to be decided. The state prevailed in all cases.

1978 Milton Skov, DVM Dr. Skov (WSU '55) served less than a year and returned to private veterinary practice in The Dalles, Oregon

1978 Intensive Brucellosis testing continued in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

1979 - 1981 John Doherty, DVM. Dr. Doherty (WSU '57) has been in state poultry inspection and on the animal health field force. He graduated from the WSU School of Veterinary Medicine in 1957. He resigned in 1981 to return to a field position. He retired in 19?? and presently lives in Buckley, Washington

1979 - 1981 Whatcom Country testing continues by task force. That last few infected herds were adult vaccinated with Strain 19 Brucellosis vaccine and tested repeatedly with removal of titred animals.

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1980-1990

1980 Exotic New Castle Disease diagnosed in several pet stores. Origin was smuggled birds from Florida.

1981 - 1982 (Acting) Peter Bidlake, DVM. Dr. Bidlake returned to the State Veterinarian position as an acting appointment. He then retired from state service, but returned to the Department under Dr. Rolla Sexauer to run the custom meat program. He retired the

second time in 19??.

1982 - 1984 Dean Smith, DVM. Dr. Smith (WSU '49) came to the position of State Veterinarian from Oregon State Department of Agriculture where he was Assistant State Veterinarian. Previous to that he was Director of the Oregon State University Laboratory. He retired in 1984 and returned to his home town, Dayton, Washington.

1983 - 1984 Vesicular Stomatitis strikes Washington state and several other Northwest states. Dairies were affected and was from an Idaho dispersal sale of dairy animals that had been exposed to the virus.

1985 - 1988 Rolla Sexauer, DVM. Dr. Sexauer was appointed State Veterinarian by Dr. Alan Pettibone, Director of Agriculture on August 1, 1985. He had previously been the Assistant State Veterinarian serving under Dr. Dean Smith since 1982. Dr. Sexauer graduated from Washington State University, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1945. He worked a few months for WSDA under Dr. Trippeer in 1945 before being ordered to report for induction into the army. However, he was deferred before induction. He then practiced at Bellingham and Menlo Washington from 1945 to 1947. From 1947 to 1949 Dr. Sexauer was assigned to the Mexican/American Foot and Mouth Disease Commission in the campaign to eradicate foot and mouth disease in Mexico.

From 1949 to 1950 he was employed by the USDA Bureau of Animal Industry in the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis eradication programs in Pocatello, Idaho. He spent 1951 to 1954 with the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington in procurement inspection. He then worked for the Oregon State Department of Agriculture and was in charge of the state Meat Inspection Program from its beginning as a voluntary program to a mandatory state-wide program established by the Oregon legislature in 1957.

Dr. Sexauer returned to employment with the WSDA in 1959 as head of the newly created state Meat Inspection Program. He organized, developed and supervised the program until 1968. He left state employment in 1973 when the USDA Meat and Poultry Inspection Service assumed responsibility for the state Meat Inspection Program. Dr. Sexauer returned to state service in 1979 as a field veterinarian in south-west Washington until 1982 when he became Assistant State Veterinarian.

1985 Avian influenza in Game Birds eradicated in SW Washington.

1986 Washington came within several months of their 12 month count-down to Brucellosis free status (true free status) when the last infected herd was found in Whatcom county. The herd was depopulated and area testing did not turn up any spread of the disease. The countdown started over late in 1986.

1988 Washington Certified Bovine Brucellosis Free meaning no infection for at least 12 months. This classification also required the cattle feeders to give up quarantined feedlots. The classification were changed to "Restricted Feedlots" where cattle not vaccinated for Brucellosis could be fattened for slaughter.

1988 Washington Accredited Bovine Tuberculosis Free meaning no infection for five years.

1988 Washington Classified Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid clean in commercial poultry under the NPIP.

1988 - 1999 (Present) Robert W. Mead, DVM. Dr. Mead joined the WSDA in 1986 as Assistant State Veterinarian under Dr. Sexauer. He is a graduate of the College of Veterinary

Medicine at the University of California at Davis in 1966. He came to the department from 16 years as an Equine Practitioner in California and Washington State. Previous to his practice years, he was employed by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission at Cultus Lake, British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Mead completed research projects on comparison of hatchery, spawning channel and wild Sockeye Salmon fry and participated in the early research work on the IHN virus of Salmon and Trout. Dr. Mead was appointed State Veterinarian by Dr. Alan Pettibone, Director, in July of 1988 after acting in the position from the time of retirement of Dr. Sexauer in February 1988.

1989 Dr. Clarence Siroky (WSU '74) was selected as Assistant State Veterinarian. Dr. Siroky served until 1994 when he became State Veterinarian for the State of Montana. He later became the State Veterinarian of Wisconsin and continues in that position to date.

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1990 onwards

1991 The only Pseudorabies infected swine herd in Washington state history was quarantined and depopulated in the Spokane area. The producer was a licensed garbage cooker but may have gotten some exposed hogs in a back haul of cattle from the Midwest. There were no records that could document such an event.

1993 Washington declared Stage V (free) for Pseudorabies.

1993 - 1998 Washington averages one Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) case every other year. The same average applies also to the occurrence of Scrapie in Washington state sheep flocks.

1994 New Federal Voluntary Scrapie control program begun for sheep and goat flocks.

1995 The first Woman Assistant State Veterinarian in any of the Western states was hired with the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Connell (WSU '91). Dr. Connell is 1st Vice-President of the WSVMA and serves on the Beef Commission. She had previous state service with the Department of Social Health Services and was in the Army for several years.

1995 Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) hits the SW U.S. and Mountain States. Washington escapes infection by restricting movements. The VS outbreaks reoccur in the SW States in 1997 and 1998. Again Washington does not get the disease. These outbreaks were primarily in horses.

1996 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or so-called Mad Cow Disease in the United Kingdom becomes a controversy worldwide over whether TSEs are zoonotic. Recent evidence indicates that in some cases they are zoonotic. The disease was first recognized in UK in 1986. Cases are still being reported in UK and some other countries of Europe. No case in cattle has been found in the U.S.

1997 Under the direction of Jim Jesernig, Director of Agriculture, the Animal Health Program begins a strategic planning process. Emphasis is on maintaining the states free status for many animal diseases, emergency disease and disaster planning and requesting law and rule changes to facilitate Food Animal Quality Assurance Programs.

1998 Washington began a pilot rule project to allow mature Brucellosis vaccination of female cattle over 12 months of age. This project showed no negative effects and was made permanent. This also facilitated international trade in cattle with Canada by allowing non-vaccinated Canadian cattle to enter Washington state and be vaccinated within the state. This

was made possible by the advent of a new Brucellosis vaccine (Strain RB-51) that does not interfere with serologic testing.

1999 At the request of the Washington Sheep Industry rules were adopted to begin a Sheep Quality Assurance Program for Blackface sheep (Suffolk and Hampshire) to deal with the perception of Scrapie in the sheep industry. Since it is a Transmittable Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE), the potential for harm to the industry is great if the disease is allowed to exist in U.S. flocks.

This history is a work in progress. Anyone with information to be added and biographical material on State Veterinarians or corrections please e-mail us at leldridge@agr.wa.gov.

Much credit is given to Dr. Rolla Sexauer for beginning this history project and acting as guide and mentor after his retirement from state service.

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